

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH
A UNITED METHODIST/PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) COMMUNITY
WILDE LAKE INTERFAITH CENTER • COLUMBIA, MARYLAND
UNITED IN LOVE – UNITED FOR SERVICE

June 11, 2023

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST // IN-PERSON & ONLINE SERVICE

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Liturgist: Nancy Gabie

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WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME

PRELUDE

Patricia Hammer
Accompanist

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG

“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

GTG #339

Lift every voice and sing till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty.
Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies;
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on, till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died.
Yet, with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
come to the place for which our parents sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;
we have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
shadowed beneath thy hand may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, December 2022.

Come! Now is the time to worship!

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We gather today as people God calls to go and share the good news.

We gather as God’s sent-out people.

We gather to listen and share God's work in our lives, our families, and our neighborhoods.

We proclaim the goodness of God's love together.

We gather to respond to God's grace as we continue on the path of discipleship.

We hear God's call and learn to say "yes" to God together.

We gather to again hear God's call to "Go!" as God commissions us to love God and neighbor in everything that we do.

We go knowing that as God's called, gathered, and sent-out people, we are not alone as we carry the weight of God's call into the world together. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, we are limited in our understanding of you, but we know that you care for us and for all creation.

Thank you for loving us and remaining with us in our sorrows and joys. Thank you for the life of Jesus whose life shows us the way to life and happiness and trust. Thank you for your Spirit who leads us.

Warm our hearts and unite us, that we might open our lives to you to accept all your love and to respond to it by entrusting ourselves to you with all that you have made us and given us.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Christ. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING 1

Genesis 12:1 – 9

ANTHEM

"Be Thou My Vision"

SJU Chancel Choir

traditional Irish; music by Mark A. Miller

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art
Thou my best thought, by day or by night
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word
Thou ever with me and I with thee, Lord
Thou and thou only, first in my heart
Great God of Heaven, my treasure thou art

Great God of Heaven, my victory won
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart whatever befall
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all

SCRIPTURE READING 2

Matthew 9:9 – 13, 18 – 26

TIME WITH CHILDREN & YOUTH

Rev. Mary Ka Kanahan

MESSAGE

"CALLING: TRUSTING THE UNKNOWN"

Rev. Mary Ka Kanahan

OFFERTORY SONG OF REFLECTION

"What Does the Lord Require of You?"

GTG #70

What does the Lord require of you?
To seek justice and love kindness
And walk humbly with your God

CALL TO GENEROSITY

God of eternity and God of the next moment: we offer our gifts today having heard your call through Jesus to follow. Remind us again this day that being a follower doesn't end at the offering plate. There is a weight to this call – one that demands we not only say “yes” to following but that we also say “no” to thousands of things that will lead us away from the discipleship path. Guide us that we might not wander off that road. In Christ, we pray. Amen.

CLOSING SONG

“Lord of the Dance/”

GTG #157

I danced in the morning when the world was begun
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun
I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth
At Bethlehem I had my birth

Chorus

*Dance, then, wherever you may be
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he*

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee
But they would not dance and they would not follow me
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John
They came with me and the dance went on

Chorus

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame
The holy people said it was a shame
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high
And they left me there on a cross to die

Chorus

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone
But I am the dance and I still go on

Chorus

They cut me down and I leapt up high
I am the life that will never, never die
I'll live in you if you'll live in me
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he

Chorus

BENEDICTION

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, December 2022.

As you leave this gathering, hear God's call to *go!* Go into the uncertainty of the journey ahead, trusting that of this you *can be certain*: God is with us, and we are sent out together. We are not alone. Thanks be to God! Amen.

POSTLUDE

Patricia Hammer
accompanist

Readings are NRSV unless otherwise noted. CEB=Common English Bible; CEV=Contemporary English Version; KJV=King James Version; MSG=The Message; NIV=New International Version; NLT=New Living Translation; TIB=The Inclusive Bible

Genesis 12:1 – 9

12:1 Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.

12:2 I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.

12:3 I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

12:4 So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

12:5 Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan,

12:6 Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land.

12:7 Then the Lord appeared to Abram, and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him.

12:8 From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the Lord and invoked the name of the Lord.

12:9 And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb.

Matthew 9:9 – 13, 18 – 26

9:9 As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him.

9:10 And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples.

9:11 When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

9:12 But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.

9:13 Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

9:18 While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live."

9:19 And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples.

9:20 Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak,

9:21 for she said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well."

9:22 Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." and instantly the woman was made well.

9:23 When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion,

9:24 he said, "Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him.

9:25 But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up.

9:26 And the report of this spread throughout that district.

